GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2731
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Loss of Pomegranate Crop
Khuba Shri Bhagwanth

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large areas of pomegranate crop have been damaged since 2007 in various parts of the country including Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some pomegranate farmers have committed suicide in these States and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Pomegranate crop has been damaged since 2007 in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Other pomegranate growing states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have not reported any major damage to the crop. In Karnataka, an area of 12787 ha. was affected in 14 pomegranate growing districts since 2007. Similarly, Maharashtra has reported that an area of 24000 ha. was damaged in 2007-08 and Gujarat has reported damage of 660 ha. during the current year, 2015-16. The major reason for the damage caused to the crop was mainly due to outbreak of bacterial blight disease in major districts of pomegranate cultivation. The damage was also due to continuous drought as well as unseasonal rainfall in the recent past.

(c): Karnataka has reported three incidents of suicide, one each in Chitradurga, Hassan and Vijayapura districts. Other States have not reported any such incident.

(d): Various programmes have been implemented under Centrally Sponsored and State Sector Schemes, like, Good Management Practices Package (GMP) for management of bacterial blight disease, financial assistance under National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF), implementation of development programmes under National Horticulture Mission and State schemes to help the pomegranate growing farmers.

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Under GMP, assistance was provided in the ratio of 50:25:25 by Centre, State and farmers respectively. Karnataka has implemented the scheme covering 10366 ha. of area with a financial assistance of Rs.2564 lakhs. Maharashtra has implemented the scheme in 75730 ha. of area with a financial assistance of Rs.17791 lakhs. The State of Karnataka also implemented the NDRF scheme under which an amount of Rs.21635 lakhs was released and waived off compound and penal interest of the loan taken by the pomegranate growing farmers during the crisis period from 2004-09 through various banks.

The Government of Gujarat has declared flood relief package and compensation @ Rs.18000/ha. was given to the affected farmers.

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